Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for transferring data between a host computer/server and a bank of disk drives through a system interface, such system interface comprising: a plurality of first directors coupled to the host computer/server; a plurality of second directors coupled to the bank of disk drives; a data transfer section coupled to the plurality of first directors and second directors; and a messaging network coupled to the plurality of first directors and the plurality of second directors, such first and second directors controlling data transfer between the host computer and the bank of disk drives in response to messages passing between the directors through the messaging network as such data passes through the data transfer section, such method comprising:

preparing in a transmitting one of the directors, a message to be sent to a receiving one, or ones, of the directors;

transmitting such message to said receiving one, or ones, of the directors through the messaging network with such messages by-passing the data transfer section;

receiving in one of the receiving one or ones of the directors the transmitted message;

determining in such receiving one, or ones, the receiving directors whether the received packet is from a proper, or an improper transmitting one of the directors;

rejecting the message if it is from an improper transmitting one of the directors and further processing such message if it is from a proper one of the transmitting directors.

2.   (original) The method recited in claim 1 including having the receiving, one or ones, of the directors send an acknowledge receipt of the packet to said transmitting one of the transmitting such packet.